A REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

Tuesday, August 7. 1711.

THE Sixth Article of the Second and last Treaty, call'd the GRAND ALLIANCE, being a Treaty made at the beginning of this last War, between the *Emperour*, *England*, and *Holland*, *Anno* 1701, the last Year of the Reign of King *William*, runs thus,

It shall be lawful for his Royal Majesty of Great *Britain*, and the Lords, the States General, by common Advice, and for the Benefit and Enlargement of the Navigation and Commerce of their Subjects, to seize by their Forces what Land and Cities they can, belonging to the *Spanish* Dominions in the *Indies*, and whatsoever they shall so take, shall be their own.

This is the Legal Foundation of our new Undertaking to the *South-Seas*, and I thought it was convenient to make it Publick, for the Information of those, that would Enquire upon what Ground we go, in an Undertaking of this Nature?

It is true, that we have blam'd the Justice of making a Partition of the Dominions of the King of *Spain*, and while we fight for the Liberty of *Europe*, pretending to pre-

preſerve Property, and reduce the Tyranny and Ambition of other Princes, who only fight to Enrich, and make themſelves Great, we ſeem not ſo Diſintereſtedly to purſue that juſt Deſign, when we make an Attempt upon any of the Dominions of the *Spaniſh* Monarchy in *America*.

But we have two Anſwers to this Pretence.

1. As we Zealouſly and Vigorouſly aſſert the Intereſt of the Houſe of *Auſtria*, and are not only at the Expence of great and powerful Succours and Aſſiſtances to the War, but *as it were*, wholly carry on that War at our own Expence of Blood and Treaſure, ſo it is but reaſonable, that the Expence we are at in ſo Chargeable an Undertaking, and of which the King of *Spain Charles* III. is to be the ſole Gainer, as he is to be put in Poſſeſſion of the whole *Spaniſh* Monarchy, and that all the Conqueſts we make in the Territories of *Spain*, in *Europe*, are, and are to be immediately put into King *Charles*'s Poſſeſſion, as has been practis'd in the Caſe of *Barcelona*, *Port Mahone*, and the like; I ſay it is but reaſonable, that ſome Conſideration ſhould be made to the *Britiſh Nation*, for all that Expence.

It would ſeem Impracticable, that *Spain* ſhould ever raiſe ſuch Immenſe Summs, as the Principal and Intereſt of the Money Diſburs'd by us would amount to.

If *Britain* ſhould pretend to keep the Poſſeſſion of ſuch Places as have been taken by her Troops, ſuch as *Port Mahone*, *Gibraltar*, *Barcelona*, or the like, as Cautionary, for the re-payment of thoſe Immenſe Summs expended as above, it might give Jealouſie to the Confederates, and be made uſe of to the *Spaniards*, as an Argument in Favour of King *Philip*, *viz.* That the Confederates deſign'd to Diſmember thoſe Places from their Monarchy, and it might be the Ground and Occaſion of many Diſputes and Differences among the Confederates themſelves.

But in order to give ſome Satisfaction to us at Home, that diſaffected People might not ſay we were always Fighting for nothing, ſecuring Advantages for other People, but nothing for our own, that every one get ſomething by the War but us, *and the like*; for this Reaſon this Clauſe was granted, and it is upon this Clauſe, that the preſent Undertaking is Founded.

Here we have a ſufficient Recompence for all our Expence, and the vaſt Succours of Armies and Fleets ſent to the *Spaniards*, and yet nothing taken from *Spain*, (if you will Manage Things Right) I ſay nothing taken from the *Spaniard*, which is at preſent of any Conſequence to them, and this leads me to enter upon two Things, the Explaining of which may be of ſome uſe to us, in the preſent View before us, of Trading to the Coaſt of *America*.

1. To ſhew you, that that Article above gives us a full ſcope of Right and Title, to Poſſeſs whatever we can enter upon in the Poſſeſſion of the *Spaniards*, ſo that this Undertaking is not as one call'd it, a Pyracy upon the *Spaniards*, on pretence of Aſſiſting them in imitation of our famous Anceſtours, the *Saxons*, who came over hither to help the *Britains*, and then beat them out of their own Country——But this is a fair Capitulation, and a reaſonable one too; ſo that thoſe Honeſt Gentlemen who ſaid the other Day, that this New Company ought to be call'd the *Buccanier Company*, was more ſevere upon them than the Nature of thing would bear, the Tranſaction being a free Convention, or Agreement, on both Sides.

2. This will make it appear, That the Poſſeſſion of the Continent of *New-Spain*, is a Thing conſiderable enough in itſelf, to anſwer all the Demands we pretend to, and was accepted as ſuch, in the General Treaty, and the Conſequence of this is plain, that it ought not then to be omitted.

I come now to the great Question to be Enquir'd in this Trade, which I reduce to this short Head of Enquiry.

Whether is our Planting upon the *South America* worth our while? Whether we can obtain a Free Trade with the *Spaniards* or no?

This Question, I presume, is necessary to be distinctly answer'd—— Because, as most People begin now to be convinc'd, That a Free Trade with the *Spaniards* is not to be expected, so they would argue from thence, against the Undertaking in general, as a Thing good for nothing.

To such I would Enquire, 1*st*. Are our Plantations in *New-England*, in *New York*, in *Virginia*, &c. of any Moment to us — from whence there is yet no Free Commerce with the *Spaniards*.

No doubt but this will be answer'd Affirmatively, and I shall then Enquire

2. Are there not vast Tracts of Land in like Latitudes *South* as they are *North*, in *America*, where the *Spaniards* hardly meddle, and with this Addition, that besides the equal Fruitfulness of the Soil and Climate, they have the Advantage of a Quantity of Silver and Gold, to make an effectual Foundation of all manner of Commerce?

3. Are not the Countries in those Latitudes, infinitely beyond the Plantations of *New England*, *Virginia*, &c. in the Fruitfulness of the Soil, Kind of Production, and other Advantages?

4. Will not a vast Variety of unforeseen Advantages in Trade, follow an *English* Settlement upon the *East* or *West* Shoars of *South America*, to the Consumption of our Manufactures, and the Enriching us by a Return of vast Wealth in Specie?

5. And lastly, tho' the Thing call'd a Free Trade with the *Spaniards*, in the Literal direct meaning of it, cannot be expected, yet will there not necessarily follow as much Trade with them as we shall care to drive, and to mutual Advantage, without any Detriment to the Trade formerly carried on by *Old Spain*?

These Heads I only start, as Inlets to a farther Description of this Trade, and I shall lay down the Affirmative of this Argument more plainly hereafter, thus.

1. Shall shew our settling on the Western Coast of South *America*, may be done with Infinite Advantage to us, and no visible Detriment to the *Spaniards* themselves.

2. I shall shew, that if the *Spaniards* please to Cultivate a mutual Correspondence with us there, altho' there should not be a Free Trade for *European* Goods, yet it might be infinitely to their Advantage, to have the *English* so Planted.

3. That to Trade in General, it shall be more Advantage not to have a Free Trade with the *Spaniards* in *America* for *European* Goods, than it would be to have it Open and Free.

Of all which in their Turn.

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